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LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND KAZAKSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Russian-Kazak statement on Tajikistan, adopted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, E. M. Primakov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, K. K. Tokaev, in Moscow on 19 February 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARISTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex

Russian-Kazak Statement on Tajikistan of 19 February 1997

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan, E. M. Primakov and K. K. Tokaev, in the course of discussions in Moscow on 19 February 1997, exchanged views on the situation in and around Tajikistan and on the prospects for a political settlement of the Tajik conflict.

The common approach of the two countries to issues relating to Tajikistan was confirmed. The Ministers emphasized their conviction that peace, stability and civil accord in Tajikistan can be restored only by political means, through dialogue between the parties on the basis of compromise and mutual concessions.

In this context, the Ministers welcomed the results of the meeting in Moscow between the President of Tajikistan, E. S. Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, A. Nuri. They consider that the Moscow agreements open up a real possibility of achieving national reconciliation in Tajikistan. It is important that these decisions should subsequently be fully implemented by both sides in Tajikistan.

The Ministers expressed the readiness of their countries to continue to promote in all possible ways the continuation of the inter-Tajik negotiating process under the auspices of the United Nations. They expect the delegations of the Tajik parties to use the forthcoming round of inter-Tajik talks in Moscow to work intensively on resolving the concrete aspects of a settlement specified in the documents of the Moscow meeting.

The heads of the foreign policy departments of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan noted the importance of the efforts being made by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the States concerned, above all the States of the region, to promote a political settlement of the Tajik conflict, and called for active cooperation with them in that direction.

The Ministers emphasized the urgency of cooperation between the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States within the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth in Tajikistan and of joint measures to protect the Tajik-Afghan border.

The readiness of the Russian Federation and Kazakstan to continue economic and humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan and to expand all-round cooperation with it on a bilateral basis and within the Commonwealth of Independent States was confirmed.